

HB 168
3/15/13
HB 168

HB 168 ESTABLISHES A PER SE THRESHOLD IN BLOOD FOR DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL (THC) AND DISTINGUISHES THC FROM ITS METABOLITES

- THC is the active or impairing compound in marijuana
- When you use marijuana you get measurable amounts of THC in your blood
- After smoking marijuana the THC levels in the blood decrease rapidly as the body starts to convert the THC into other compounds called metabolites
- The metabolites can be detected in a person's blood or urine for days after their last marijuana use
- Currently scientists only focus on blood THC levels to determine marijuana impairment

SCIENCE SUPPORTS A 5 NG/ML BLOOD THC LIMIT AS A REASONABLE GUIDELINE FOR SEPARATING IMPAIRED FROM UNIMPAIRED DRIVERS

- Marijuana can impair driving skills for up to 3-4 hours after use. Larger doses and oral intake can extend the period of impairment
- Blood THC levels 5 ng/ml and above have been associated with recent marijuana use and impairment
- Studies of marijuana use and driving have found that THC levels exceeding 5 ng/ml are associated with an increased risk of accidents and fatalities

HEAVY MARIJUANA USERS SHOULD HAVE THEIR BLOOD THC LEVEL FALL BELOW 5 NG/ML IF THEY WAIT A FEW HOURS BEFORE DRIVING

- A study done by researchers from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Health, and Harvard medical school did a study on 25 frequent long term marijuana users who had, on average, used marijuana for 8.8 years (5)
- Most participants had used marijuana 24 hrs before beginning the study and they were to remain drug free for 7 days while researchers monitored their blood THC level
- During the study only one participant had a blood THC level above 5 ng/ml and this was on the day of admission when it was not clear how much time had elapsed between her last drug use and the first blood draw. By the next morning this individual's blood THC level had dropped below 5 ng/ml

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